

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Hidehito KUBO  
Title: LOAD BALANCING METHOD AND  
SYSTEM BASED ON ESTIMATED  
ELONGATION RATES  
Appl. No.: Unassigned  
Filing Date: October 6, 2000  
Examiner: Unassigned  
Art Unit: Unassigned

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, Applicant respectfully requests that the following amendments be entered into the application:

**In the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page ~~24~~, line 2, replace "program" with --processing processes--;  
line 23, replace "program" with --processing processes--.  
Page ~~71~~, line ~~6~~, delete "CPU of the".